



Town of Groton, Connecticut

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Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk 860-441-6640
Town Manager
860-441-6630

Meeting Minutes

Town Council

Mayor James L. Streeter, Councilors Bruce S. Flax, Bill Johnson, Catherine Kolnaski, Deborah B. Monteiro, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Deborah L. Peruzzotti, Paulann H. Sheets, and Harry A. Watson

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 p.m. by Mayor Streeter.

Members Present: Mayor Streeter, Councilor Flax, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor Monteiro, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Peruzzotti, Councilor Sheets and Councilor Watson

Members Absent: Councilor Johnson

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Office Assistant Lori Watrous.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Salute to the Flag was led by Zell Steever.

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

None

PRE-BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

2010-0172

FYE 2012 Budget

Heard at Public Hearing

Mayor Streeter called a recess for the Public Hearing at 7:31 p.m.

The Notice of Public Hearing pursuant to a resolution passed by the Town Council was read by Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher.

Ann Shipley, 48 Riverview Avenue, Noank, member of the Mystic & Noank Library Board of Trustees, stated that the Mystic & Noank Library offers a variety of services and is always bustling, but due to a decrease in funding last year the library was forced to close its doors on Thursdays. Ms. Shipley requested that the library's request for \$186,000 be granted to allow it to reopen on Thursdays.

Debra Adamson, 36 Shewville Road, Old Mystic, stated that as a home-school parent she utilizes the Mystic & Noank Library frequently. She would like funding restored to the library so that it will be open on Thursdays.

Connie Readett, 10 New London Road, Mystic, would also like to see the Mystic & Noank Library funding restored.

There being no further comments, Mayor Streeter closed the Public Hearing at 7:38 p.m.

IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

None.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

None.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approval of Minutes

2011-0040 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of February 8, 2011 are hereby accepted and approved.

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

b. Administrative Items

2011-0036 Special Trust Fund Contributions

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING SPECIAL TRUST FUND CONTRIBUTIONS

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby accepts contributions to the Town as follows:

Various Donations - \$355.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Anonymous - \$20.00 - Social Services Discretionary

George Marshall - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary

PFLAG of Southeastern Connecticut - \$56.90 - Library Discretionary

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

Passed The Consent Calendar

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, to adopt the Consent Calendar, including all the preceding items marked as having been adopted on the Consent Calendar.

The motion carried unanimously

VII. COMMUNICATION REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)

a. Town Councilors

Councilor Flax noted that there will be a Noank School Reuse Task Force meeting on February 17, 2011.

Councilor Kolnaski attended the Ledge Light Health District Board of Directors meeting.

Councilor Sheets attended the Task Force on Climate Change and Sustainable Community meeting. The Task Force's final report will be ready for the Council February 22, 2011.

Mayor Streeter received emails regarding the Groton Heights School Reuse Task Force survey and the Phase II School Facilities Program. The Mayor, along with Mark Oefinger, attended an OpSail 2012 meeting.

b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting

The next regular meeting of the RTM will be on March 9, 2011, at the Groton Senior Center.

c. Clerk of the Council

No report.

d. Town Manager

The Town Manager stated that the Senior Center's Phase III Cardiac Rehab Program's transition to the Lawrence & Memorial's Medical Fitness and Cardiac Rehabilitation Program went smoothly. The new program will continue to utilize the Groton Senior Center. He remarked that the Groton Town Hall recently became the location for the regional Probate Court, but there are still some operational issues regarding transfer of funds from other towns that need to be addressed. Mr. Oefinger noted that Voter Registration has relocated to the Social Services building. He stated that the building official has issued a demolition order for the Burnett's

Corner Mason's Lodge. The Town Manager received a warning notice from Electric Boat regarding a layoff of 23 people on April 15, 2011. Mr. Oefinger noted that there will be a special joint meeting of the Committee of the Whole, Board of Education, and RTM on February 16, 2011.

e. Town Attorney

No report.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Community & Cultural Development - Chairman Peruzzotti

No meeting, no report.

b. Economic Development - Chairman Johnson

No meeting, no report.

c. Education/Health & Social Services - Chairman Kolnaski

No meeting, no report.

d. Environment/Energy - Chairman Sheets

No meeting, no report.

e. Finance - Chairman O'Beirne

No meeting, no report.

f. Personnel/Appointments/Rules - Chairman Flax

No meeting, no report.

g. Public Safety - Chairman Monteiro

No meeting, no report.

h. Public Works/Recreation - Chairman Watson

No meeting, no report.

i. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Streeter

Mayor Streeter stated that there was a special Committee of the Whole meeting this evening, and the item discussed will be brought up under new business.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

X. NEW BUSINESS

Suspension of the Rules

A motion to suspend the rules to consider the lease of Photovoltaic Solar Electric Systems discussed during the Committee of the Whole meeting earlier this evening was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Sheets and so voted unanimously.

2011-0041 Lease of Photovoltaic Solar Electric System

LEASE OF PHOTOVOLTAIC SOLAR ELECTRIC SYSTEM

RESOLVED, that the Town Manager is authorized to pursue a grant application for the acquisition of an unspecified number of no-cost Photovoltaic Solar Electric Systems.

A motion was made by Councilor Monteiro, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti, that this matter be Adopted.

Councilor Sheets noted that this item is a referral by the Task Force on Climate Change and Sustainable Community. She stated that the solar panels will be available for public buildings and the Town would need to identify buildings that would be good candidates for solar energy. Councilor Sheets supports this resolution.

Mayor Streeter stated that this is a win/win situation and will help to achieve one of the Council goals.

The motion carried unanimously

2011-0058

Town of Groton Facebook Page Postings

TOWN OF GROTON FACEBOOK PAGE POSTINGS

Councilor Flax requested a referral to discuss posting meeting notices on the Town Facebook site to increase communication with the public.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 7:59 p.m. was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Watson and so voted unanimously.

Attest:

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council*

Lori Watrous, Office Assistant